

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4343

USDOC FOR BEWT/DOWNEY

PASS TREASURY FOR PARSKY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BGEN, ETRD, EEWT, UR

SUBJECT: ISSUES WHICH SOVIETS MAY RAISE AT MEETING OF JOINT

COMMERCIAL COMMISSION - TRAVEL CONTROLS ON AMTORG

AND KAMA PURCHASING OFFICIALS

1. DURING MEETING MARCH 28 FOR DISCUSSION OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR JOINT COMMISSION MEETING, SOVIET MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE PROTOCOL CHIEF V.S. RAKHMANIN MADE LENGTHY STATEMENT TO COMMATT CRITICIZING METHOD IN WHICH DEPARTMENT OF STATE APPLIES TRAVEL CONTROLS TO EMPLOYEES OF AMTORG AND KAMA PURCHASING COMMISSION. PRACTICAL IMPLICATION OF THESE PROCEDURES, RAKHMANIN CLAIMED, WAS TO CLOSE ENTIRE COUNTRY TO SOVIET COMMERCIAL REPS SINCE IT WAS INPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN PERMISSION OF STATE DEPARTMENT TO MAKE TRIPS WITHIN NECESSARY TIME PERIOD. IN THIS CONNECTION, RAKHMANIN CALIMED THAT SOVIET ORGANIZATIONS FOUND IT PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT TO CONTACT RESPONSIBLE OFFICE DUE TO USE OF AUTOMATIC ANSWERING DEVICE WHICH ALLOWED MAXIMUM OF 30 SECONDS FOR EACH MESSAGE. IN REPLY, COMMATT SAID HE WAS SURE SITUATION COULD NOT BE AS DIFFICULT AS RAKHMANIN DESCRIBED AND NOTED THAT TRAVEL IN USSR FOR U.S. BUSINESSMEN WAS BY NO MEANS EASY.

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH RAKHMANIN SEEMED RECEPTIVE TO COMMATT'S  
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SUGGESTION THAT THIS PROBLEM BE DISCUSSED, AT LEAST INITIALLY,

AT WORKING LEVEL, IT SEEMS QUITE LIKELY THAT SOVIETS WILL  
RAISE IT IN CONTEXT OF JOINT COMMERCIAL COMMISSION MEETING.  
END COMMENT.

3 . ANOTHER COMPLAINT WHICH RAKHMANIN VOICED CONCERNED  
TREATMENT OF SOVIET OFFICIAL DELEGATIONS BY U.S. CUSTOMS AND  
IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS. HE NOTED THAT IN CASE OF SOVIET  
DELEGATION TO RECENT MEETING OF US-USSR TRADE AND ECONOMIC  
COUNCIL'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, OF WHICH RAKHMANIN WAS MEMBER,  
DEPUTY MINISTERS ALKHIMOV AND SUSKHOV HAD BEEN GIVEN SPECIAL  
TREATMENT WHILE OTHER MEMBERS OF DELEGATION, BAKHMANIN INCLUDED ,  
HAD BEEN OBLIGED TO GO THROUGH REGULAR CUSTOMS AND  
IMMIGRATION CONTROLS. RAKHMANIN POINTED OUT THAT IN CASE  
OF ANALOGOUS U.S. DELEGATION TO MEETING OF TRADE AND ECONOMIC  
COUNCIL IN MOSCOW LAST OCTOBER, ALL MEMBERS OF U.S. DEL HAD  
BEEN GIVEN "VIP" TREATMENT ALONG WITH SECRETARY SIMON,  
ALTHOUGH SOVIETS COULD HAVE DIVIDED DELEGATION INTO "VIP" AND  
"NON-VIP" CATEGORIES, AS WAS DONE WITH RECENT SOVIET DELEGATION.  
(COMMENT: U.S. DELEGATION TO COMMERCIAL COMMISSION MEETING  
MAY HEAR SOME COMPLAINTS ON THIS PROBLEM, EITHER IN FORMAL  
SESSIONS OR, MORE LIKELY, IN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH  
SOVIETS. END COMMENT).  
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## Message Attributes

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